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TO : Department of State
 INFO : ADEN, AMMAN, ANKARA, BAGHDAD, BEIRUT, BONN FOR CINCUSAFE, CAIRO, DAMASCUS, DHAHRAN, FRANKFURT FOR KINDSEY AIR STATION, ATTN: DSC INTELLIGENCE IDCA, HEADQUARTERS USAREUR, HEIDELBERG, KARACHI, KHARTOUM, KUWAIT, LONDON, RABAT, TATZ, TEHERAN, TEL AVIV, POLAD CINCSTRIKE/CINCMEAFSA, COMIDEASTFOR, DIA.

FROM : Amembassy, JIDDA

DATE: February 7, 1966

SUBJECT: Monthly Review for Saudi Arabia - January, 1966

REF :

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GROUP THREE

Downgraded at 12-year intervals, not automatically declassified.

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FORM 4-62 D5-323

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In Draft: POL-RWMurphy
 ECON:SCBlackiston

USIS: GRThompson
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/HR	
REVIEWED BY <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE <i>10/5/87</i>
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SUMMARY

IRRELEVANT

Ambassador ELITS presented his credentials to King Faisal on January 15. The King used the occasion to express his warm appreciation for past USG support of Saudi Arabia;

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U.S.-Saudi military cooperation, the Minister of Defense and Aviation agreed in principle to USMTM proposals for an organization to control the new air defense system and reaffirmed his desire that USMTM continue to advise him on the implementation of the air defense agreement. The successful visit of the USS RICH to Jidda was a useful reminder to the Saudi military and public of the USG commitment to protect Saudi independence and integrity.

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I. FOREIGN RELATIONS

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1. U.S.-SAUDI RELATIONS

A. U.S.-Saudi Relations - General

Ambassador Eilts' arrival and the presentation of his Letters of Credence to King Faisal on January 15 provided the opportunity for a general exchange of views on U.S.-Saudi relations. While he referred in warmest terms to the support which the USG has rendered in the past to Saudi Arabia, and noted that Saudi Arabia agreed with America's basic aims abroad, the King remarked that his country could not agree with all of our foreign policies nor with our

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way of implementing them.

B. Air Defense

While an Embassy-supported effort to substitute a U.S. firm, Page Communications, for Marconi in the mixed UK-US air defense consortium was rejected by Prince Sultan, the latter reaffirmed to Brigadier General LEAHY, Chief, U.S. Military Training Mission to Saudi Arabia (USMTM), his desire that USMTM continue to advise him on the implementation of the air defense agreement. General Leahy has used this invitation to reopen with Sultan discussion of a number of long-standing USMTM problems, including the proposed move of USMTM Headquarters to Riyadh, conclusion of the draft USMTM Country Agreement, and adoption by the Saudi Council of Ministers of the Five Year Defense Plan drawn up by USMTM. In a meeting with Leahy January 27 Sultan accepted in principle the USMTM's proposed concept for an organization to control the air defense system. The proposals have been referred to a joint MODA/USMTM working committee for detailed review.

C. U.S. Naval Visit

The USS RICH (DD-820), a destroyer attached to COMIDEASTFOR, called at Jidda January 27-31. The ship's visit was highly successful socially and was a useful reminder to the Saudi military and public of the USG commitment to protect Saudi Arabia's independence and integrity.

For the Ambassador:

Brooks W. Wrampelmeier

Brooks Wrampelmeier
Second Secretary of Embassy

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